WORKERS of the WORLD UNITE

THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALIST

No 40. With which is incorporated The International Socialist Review for Australasia. SYDNEY : JANUARY 28, 1911. Registered at the General Post Office, Sydney, for transmission by post as a Newspaper. PRICE, ONE PENNY.

REVOLUTION.

TRUTH is shining; earth's awaking;
Freedom rising, chains are breaking,
Tyrants on their thrones are quaking,
For their reign is nearly done.
Knowledge coming, error leaving,
Pen and press their past retrieving,
Swiftly by their shuttles weaving
All the nations into one.

Priests and creeds are retreceding;
Men, the guide within, are heeding,
Everyone his garden weeding;
Headlong bigotry is hurled.
Love upspringing, hate is dying;
Men rejoicing, knaves are sighing;
Deadly curses fast are flying
From a renovated world.

—DENTON.

The Passing Show.

CONDUCTED BY OTUS.

IMMEDIATELY after the appearance of THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALIST's article on the Labor Party and the Cabmen, Donald Macdonnell sent for the cabmen's representatives, and laid before them a compromise calculated to blunt the sharp edge of the guillotine with which the cabbies threatened to decapitate Someone. Donald's proposals involved the dragging in of the police to see that the terms of the compromise were observed. This the cabbies rejected. The question now is: Can Donald chloroform all the cabmen? We don't think.

The South Australian Labor Government is making another great move to benefit the working-class. It is sending round and asking Society ladies and exploiters' wives if they are really short of domestic servants, with a view of importing slave-girls for the said ladies in the event of a shortage really existing. No wonder the capitalist press decries the panic legislation of the Labor Party.

Sixty thousand men, with barbarian minds and gay uniforms, and weapons to kill other men with, will line the routes of the Coronation corroboree.

Sir William Lyne, who appointed Captain Wynne paymaster of that shrieking China contingent, and also gave Percy Hunter that big fat Government job to please the *D.T.* and the Labor Party, is now said to be in danger of having his political scalp lifted by the P.L.L.

"OTUS" regrets that "a man named Gisolme fired two shots from the gallery of of the French Chamber of Deputies at M. Briand, the Premier, and missed him!"

Herr vor. Dallivitz, a Prussian Minister, excused the police brutality in the recent Moabit fighting, and declared that his Government didn't call the military out like they do in some other countries. He was pouring a shot into his brother murderers in England.

The mine managers, having fixed up a 4½ years' agreement with most of the other unions at Broken Hill, have rejected the claims of the engine-drivers and firemen. If the latter are forced to strike, those agreements will have to be broken, or the unions bound by them will have to do some scabbing.

Donald Macdonnell treated motions of censure from Labor Leagues re his attitude towards the cabmen with contempt, but as soon as THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALIST took the matter up, he backed his cart, and condescended to reconsider his decision.

Johnny, get your gun, and learn to kill somebody for your master's profit.

It is pointed out by the Defence Department that boys living in exempt areas are still obliged to enrol as cadets under the new Defence Act.

In the days of the future, when the workers are economically educated, they won't allow any court of class-biased lawyers to interfere with the details of their industrial organisations by means of injunctions—for the simple reason that there won't be any such court to interfere.

Rumblings of the industrial revolution were recently heard in Portugal, where serious strikes were in progress. No trains were running, and all the shops in Lisbon were closed. Strike riots have taken place.

Labor-member Frazer is "negociating" with the Westralian strikers and firewood companies for a settlement. When a Labor politician "negociates," it's a farm-burner to a dum-dum bullet that the strike is as good as "settled."

During the recent drivers' strike in Adelaide the employers published big double-column advts. in the daily papers, under the head of "Mr. Hughes on the strike!" One of the Strike-breaker's pronouncements they flourished in big type read thus: "TO STRIKE IS NOT ONLY UNJUSTIFIABLE AND UNREASONABLE, IT IS RIDICULOUS."

And to this they added the Melbourne *Age's* shriek: "STRIKERS who throw all the social machinery as far as they can into anarchy are not merely ridiculous, as Mr. Hughes puts it, they ARE SUPREMELY SELFISH, CALLOUS, AND WICKED. For the gratification of a stupid pugnacity, for the love of showing their powers, and out of the truculence of the blustering bully they are willing to bring suffering on thousands of innocent men and women who sympathise with them and would help them by their votes. They will break the laws of their own creation; they will violate all the canons which hold them together in the social state out of the iniquitous desire of class domination and letting the 'toffs see'."

The Federal Attorney-General is—from a blackleg point of view—the most useful man the employers could have around when a strike is on.

Mr. Arthur Devlin, of the Boot Trade Employees' Federation, recently told the Wages Board some news about the speeding-up system in the boot factories. During the past 20 years, he said, the pace had increased to such an extent that the difference could now be compared to that existing between a highly-trained horse on the race-course and an old cab horse on the street. He pointed out that, although there had been an increase in the wages paid, the amount of work that had to be given in return was far greater, and the conditions under which men had to work were much worse. The pace was so severe that it injured the health of the men. The foreman set the day's task, and several failures to fulfil it meant dismissal. Mr. Devlin has furnished a splendid argument against wages boards and in favor of the revolutionary unionism advocated by the International Socialists.

Sir Edward Carson, K.C., recently gave evidence "on the question of the amount of damages that should be allowed to husbands whose wives were divorced on the grounds of infidelity." He thought the damages now awarded were altogether inadequate.

The whole of the evidence and proceedings of this farcical divorce commission are based on the assumption of private ownership in womankind by the man. It is the man whose property rights have been violated; it is the man who must receive compensation for the loss of his property. Herein is a deeper depth of immorality than is conceivable in any other way.

When woman is economically independent, and enjoys economic freedom along with man, all immorality will disappear. There will no economic reason for it.

The Chinese will cut off their pigtails on Jan. 30; but Judge Pring and Billy Hughes will still continue to wear THEIR barbarous adornments in court.

Professor Stewart says the feeding of calves with unpasteurised separated milk from public creamies is a most prolific source of dissemination of tuberculosis.

What does the profit-maker care? His business is to rake in the shekels.

F. Allmann compliments THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALIST on adhering to principle and avoiding personalities.

The *Financial News* (one of the "sharkiest" of shark papers) declares that the Australian banking position is remarkably sound. This will be reassuring news for the wharflaborer who can't get work enough to keep his children in boots.

Vic. P.L. Council has been calling Jim McGowen names because he isn't supporting the alteration of the Constitution in favor of taking from the State middle-class Parliament the control of matters affecting the shackling of the workers, and the passing of it along to the Federal middle-class Parliament. The Laborites don't seem to be able to grip the working-class position, which is that both Federal and State Parliaments have to go when the Class State goes and the workers proclaim the new industrial system—the Socialist Republic.

"Mr. Pulsford" (who is *he*, anyhow?) writes to Sydney *Telegraph*, re the gas strike:

"To even suggest the sudden taking away from half a million people of the light the majority of them use; of the heat with which many of them cook their daily food; of the power many of them require for working, is surely so grave a thing as to look like treachery deliberately thought out to destroy every vestige of that respect and sympathy which the people as a whole entertain for the trade unions."

"Mr Pulsford" seems to have quite overlooked the fact that it was the Gas Co., and not the strikers, that took away from half a million of people the light some of them use and the heat that many of them cook their adulterated daily sausage with. Therefore, this paper advises "Mr. Pulsford" to write to the Gas Co. about it.

Josiah Thomas's attempt to dictate to the Adelaide postal workers as to whom they should send to see him in Melbourne re their grievances is a fine large chunk of impudence. Josiah autocratically told the Association that he desired to have the president sent to interview him, and not the delegates elected for that purpose by the Association. The president very properly refused to go to Melbourne at Josiah's command, holding that the P.M.G. must receive the delegates appointed. This and other grievances and humiliations piled up for the workers makes a load that would make any ordinary working-class worm turn; and unless Josiah's stock of political chloroform is fairly large he may find himself up against an industrial revolt on the part of his sweated wage-worms.

J. W. Adams, ex-Governor of Nevada, is worried over things political in Australia. He told a daily press reporter:

"But it looks to me as if you people are drifting into Socialism. It looks like confiscation—I refer to this land tax. I look round to find your manufacturing interests, and I find you have some. The wages you demand are so large that you can never become an exporting country, as you cannot compete with the manufacturers of other countries. The true principle of Government is that everyone should pay for its maintenance, because it protects their interests."

One wouldn't think that an ex-Governor of Nevada could possibly be so stupid as to imagine that a pettifogging little land tax (which is immediately passed along for payment by the tenant, and in the end by the working-class) is Socialism. It's a reflection on Nevada itself when it lets a man like that break loose with the news that he has been Governor of Nevada.

While Andy Fisher's party will be working off their scare about Jap. invasion dangers, to boost their villainous conscription plot, Andy himself will be clinking glasses and hobnobbing with the representatives of Jap. Capitalism—Baron Fushimi, who will represent the Mikado at the Coronation, Admiral Togo of the Japanese Navy, and General Oyama of the Japanese Army. The Australian workers have got fearfully long ears when they can be fooled along so easily.

The presence of the nodules (i.e., maggots) in meat intended for human consumption is, Dr. Leiper has stated to the British Local Government Board, undesirable, and the meat must be classed as "unsound."

Sydney *Telegraph* calls Alf. Edden's proposal for State mines (i.e., State Capitalism) "The Socialist Venture." Which shows how awfully stupid—or mendacious—the *Telegraph* is.

Once more it is denied that coal-owner Ward, alias Dudley, will vacate the Governor-Generalship (at £10,000 a year and extras) of these Blessed Isles.

Ballarat P.L.L. has carried a resolution denouncing "the traitorous attitude towards constitutional freedom" of the N.S.W. Labor Government with respect to the Federal referendums. From a working-class viewpoint the referendums are to decide which is best—Tweedledum or Tweedledee.

When European royalties meet, they put in their time murdering helpless animals—and call the process "sport." When the crack-brained German Emperor and the "bloody" Czar of Russia met recently, herds of deer were driven up to the muzzles of the royal guns, and 500 of them were shot down. The German Socialist papers now suggest royal ideals of sport may be reached in a cheaper and more humane way by allowing the Czar and the Kaiser to spend a day chopping off the heads of domestic fowls in the royal backyard at Potsdam.

For this awful crime one editor has been arrested.

What becomes of the Bible story of the Creation, with its seven days of effort six thousand years ago, when Professor Laby, now in Sydney, tells us:

"Recently Professor Brutt, F.R.S., had measured the amount of helium in the mineral thorianite, and the rate at which the helium is accumulating; and found it must have taken 280 million years for the helium to accumulate. The experiment was highly delicate, but there was every reason to believe in its accuracy. We may safely conclude," said the Professor, "that the antiquity of the earth is at the very least 300 million years."

Mackay (Q.) *Mercury* is worried because the sugar workers aren't satisfied with the conditions under which they work. The *Mercury* lays the blame for the discontent, in a vague and uncertain sort of way, on the shoulders of persons unnamed, declaring that "in the ranks there is a sufficient per centage of useless labor to keep discontent alive," and adding that "there is also a very low type—men who are fit for anything in the shape of industrial mischief and always ready to kick up a row over a job."

One would think that even the rattle-brained conductor of an untruthful rag like the *Mercury* would have gone to school long enough to learn that it is industrial conditions that create discontent, and not individuals. Moreover, one would have hoped that the stupidest man in Mackay would know that no progress is possible unless it has discontent for a forerunner.

It was Mark Twain who told how the thermometer was boiled on a certain memorable occasion because the weather was cold. This paper would suggest to the people of Mackay that they boil the *Mercury* man for the benefit of his frost-bitten brain.

Adelaide *Register* thinks it is gratifying that the authorities should have brought along 2000 men to fight to the death two men caged in a London building, and the flimsy old paper gloats over the fact that the men were "like rats in a trap," and that they lost their lives in the flames. From beginning to end the *Register's* article betrays the true criminal instinct in the writer—that is, the instinct that delights to see bloodshed, life taken, murder done, without the courage to do it.

G. Fowlds, N.Z. Minister for Education, told the Sydney Single Tax League that the land tax in Maoriland had given a great impetus to the building trades there, and employers were even paying men 2d and 3d an hour more than the rate fixed by the Arbitration Court. "There was such a shortage of labor that some employers were accusing others of 'stealing *their* men'."

N.Z. employers are not different from others. They insist on their proprietary rights being recognised, and it should flatter the N.Z. working man to know that he has an owner, who resents some other employer stealing him.

Nineteen Chinamen were arrested in Sydney the other day on a charge of gambling. Up to the time of our going to press the Stock Exchangers, and the members of the toff Clubs, and Ragman Hordern, and a host of other gamblers, were still at large. It serves the Chinamen right; they should have taken the precaution to be born rich and influential—like the Stock Exchange men and the Club men and Hordern and the others.

National Library of Australia http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-page12366253

To our Contributors.

CONTRIBUTORS to THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALIST are reminded that our space is exceedingly limited. Therefore short articles and crisp and snappy paragraphs will have the best chance of securing publication.

Writers are asked to note that preference will be given to articles dealing with current industrial and political events from a Revoutionary Socialist viewpoint. Articles must not exceed 1000 words.

Open Column contributions exceeding 500 words cannot be printed.

Write legibly, on one side of the paper only, and leave good space between the lines.

When posting, leave ends open, and mark "Press Copy Only." A penny stamp will then be sufficient from any part of Australia. Address to "The Editor."

Every contribution must bear the writer's name—not necessarily for publication.

Friends and Members visiting THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALIST Office are urged to assist in getting business done with expedition. DON'T STAY TO TALK. We're always busy; and the delays we are subjected to in the daytime we have to make up for by working through the night hours.

Committee and General Meetings.

THE following meetings will be held at 274 Pitt-reet, Sydney, during the forthcoming week :—

Thursday, 7—S.F.A. Administrative Council.
Thursday, 8—Economic Class.
Monday, 7.30 p.m.—Club Executive.
Monday, 8.30 p.m.—Joint Executives.
Monday, 9.15 p.m.—Party Executive.

A Red Mark through this paragraph indicates that YOUR SUBSCRIPTION WILL EXPIRE WITH NEXT ISSUE, and must be renewed within ten days from date of this issue if you wish the paper to continue. If your Subscription is not renewed within the time stated, the Executive will take it as an intimation that you wish to have the paper discontinued.

It has been well said that the freedom of any society may be measured by the freedom of its women.—JOSEPH E. COMEN.

Stark-Naked Facts.

An Indictment of Capitalism's Sexual Morality.

BY THE SLAVE.

ONE of the stock bogeys used by apologists of Capitalist society against the Socialist is that he is an advocate of free-love. They are forever prating about the sanctity of the marriage-tie and the preservation of the integrity of the home. It is the object of this article to examine critically the sexual life of bourgeois society, and to logically forecast as closely as possible the sexual relationship which will evolve upon the foundation of the Socialist Republic.

In 1892 there were 100,000 prostitutes in London, 190,000 in Paris, 50,000 in Berlin. In this army one woman in three attempts suicide every year, and one in twelve succeeds, so that self-destruction alone would demand that the army be replaced every twelve years; but the other causes so multiply this that we may safely say that every five years in London, Paris and Berlin, 270,000 of the best-looking and best-formed girls from *working-men* homes are recruited to slake the lust of the community. As to the causes contributing to the formation of this colossal army of unfortunates, the following figures, compiled from 5000 of the licensed prostitutes in Paris, are instructive: 1,440 driven to it from want and misery; 1250 orphaned and homeless, with no other means of support; 80 to support feeble and helpless parents; 1400 discarded mistresses of wealthy men; 400 country girls, seduced and deserted; 280 city girls, deserted by their lovers. It is evident from these figures that want is the primary cause of prostitution. Again, it is notorious that many women are compelled to resort to occasional prostitution to augment their insufficient earnings. Another source of this evil is the well-known "white-slave trade," the ghastly procurement and traffic in girls which is so characteristic of the age of commerce, and has aroused a feeble protest from even smug Christian prelates.

Appalling as are the numbers of these unhappy women, the results of their ghastly profession are even more serious. Prostitution is the focus for the dissemination of venereal disease. In England, France, and Germany, 1 man in 3 suffers at some period from venereal infection. One death in every 130 in England is due to this cause, and 14 per cent. of the children brought into the London Hospitals are suffering from inherited venereal disease. Deaths from these diseases have increased 90 per cent. in the past 25 years, and insanity 100 per cent. This is the illicit side of the love-life of Capitalism; it presents a picture to be proud of, indeed! Here in all its sacred glory we have pourtrayed the sanctity of the marriage-tie, the integrity of the home!

We will now pass on to the legally-recognised form of sex-union—the monogamic marriage of Capitalism. Here we find that the exclusion of woman from the more remunerative occupations, and the low rate of wages paid in those industries open to her, makes marriage to the vast majority the sole haven of refuge from the oppression of repugnant domestic conditions. Max Nordau estimates that 75 per cent. of modern marriages are mere sexual bargains, on the basis of life-long support for the woman in exchange for her exclusive sexual service to the man. How can a union under such conditions lead to any but disastrous results? Sexual passion, greatly influenced as it is by spiritual environment, disappears, and with it goes the last possibility of spiritual sympathy. Thus the character of most marriages is solitude. They represent the tragedy of desolation, of the eternal self-seeking of husband and wife. Moreover, in many cases, marriage has been degraded to the coarsest sexual customs, the most shameless and distressing spiritual murders, and the grossest impairment of personal liberty, that any province of modern life exhibits. One has only to inquire of the physician and the magistrate to learn for what purposes the sacrament of marriage is too often employed. From such loathsome conditions but a small section of the race can escape. The stringency of the divorce laws and the exorbitant cost of litigation render separation the privilege of a few.

With divorce laws such as they are to-day, wives are made the unwilling mothers of thousands of children, conceived in bitterness of soul, born into an atmosphere of hate, reared in a home where all that fosters and enriches the soul-life is absent, whilst contention, discord, and mutual disgust are everywhere present. Thus is to-morrow inflicted with an army of human beings destined to become a curse to themselves and to the race. Few greater crimes can be imagined than that against helpless posterity and debauched motherhood. When, as is the case to-day throughout the whole Christian world, wives who no longer love are compelled by their position of material dependence to yield to the brutal passions of their master and bring children of hate into the world, we find prostitution in its most frightful form, and moral criminality branding unborn innocence with leprosy of the soul. And yet this is but the commonplace side of the legalised amatory life of Capitalist society; these are the conditions upheld in the sacred name of religion and morality by paltry bourgeois pietists who passionately declaim against the iconoclast who has the temerity to register his protest against these festering ulcers of our social life.

But the times are changing; men are commencing to realise the hideous corruption of our social system. Heeding the exhortations of the pioneers of progress, they are beginning to investigate and to reason. Humanity is beginning to ask itself the earnest and solemn question: "How is it possible that thousands are refused the simple right to love, so that they are condemned to joyless existence in which all the beautiful blossoms of life wither away, that thousands of others are condemned to the ghastly misery of prostitution, and finally that the race at large is being delivered in ever-increasing degree to the devastation of venereal diseases and their consequences?" Upon the proper solution of this question depends the whole future of the human race and our ultimate liberation from the ignominious conditions of the sexual life of the present.

The Socialist asserts that Capitalism, entailing as it does the economic dependence of woman upon man, is the root of all our modern sexual ills; that Capitalist society represents one fact, love another; that between the two there is an eternal state of war. Capital dominates the whole thought and feeling of modern humanity; for love and its idealism there is no longer any room. Social economy recognises only the sexual relationship and not the higher feeling of love, and so, as Belfort Bax truly says, "we buy our wives, and hire our prostitutes."

The Socialist believes in and aims at monogamic marriage; it is the highest ideal that the race has attained. Nature orders it in the fact that the numbers of both sexes are nearly equal. But the Socialist ideal is a union between two free, independent personalities who share fully love and life and by a common life work further their own advantage and the well-being of their children. The realisation of this ideal can only be effected in conjunction with social arrangements providing for the complete economic emancipation of woman by giving security for her material means of subsistence. This can be accomplished by the Social Revolution, which will abolish the commercial value of woman and terminate the sordid struggle for material existence. Unless these indispensible preliminaries are fulfilled, the highest ideal of free morality will be debased to the level of a gross caricature. In the establishment of the Socialist Commonwealth lies the only escape of the race from the putrescent sexual corruption of our time.

"The Workman's Paradise."

BY J. BLUMENTHAL.

AN Adelaide bishop, speaking in London, according to the cables, stated that Australia was the paradise of the workman. If he had made that statement with respect to bishops he might have been nearer the truth. But the churches have always been the faithful allies of the master class, for the Church depends for its existence on the subscriptions of its plutocratic members, and these in return depend on the Church to keep the wage-worker contented with propitious extracts from the bible. The words of Frederick the Great are as true to-day as when they were first uttered: "Religion is a fraud, but it must be maintained for the masses."

In the eyes of the bishop, the absence in Australia of those extensive slums such as exist in London, and also a superficial absence of classes, makes of this country a workman's paradise. If this bishop was not so class-biassed, and knew a little of contemporary history, he would see that our embryo slums must grow to a comparatively large extent as our new manufacturing system, fostered by a tariff, continues to grow. But, even at the present day, with our small population and vast extent of country, we have our slums, ragged schools, pauper population, unemployment, strikes, and Labor Party. In a city like Sydney, with a population of about 600,000, we have over 50 charitable institutions—one substantial proof that this is not a workman's but a master's paradise.

Strikes are the gauges of the condition of a working-class that is not so brutalised as to be incapable of doing anything but meekly obeying the master's order; yet in the last year we have had three large strikes that have affected the whole of Australia, besides a host of minor ones. With the advent of the Labor Ministries the bad condition of the workers is beginning to show itself by social ebullitions or strikes, which in itself is sufficient proof of the capitalist character of the Labor Party. The wage-worker of Australia is little better off than the wage-worker of other countries. A wage the whole world over is merely a subsistence wage. Economic robbery is as prevalent in Australia as anywhere else where the capitalist mode of producduction prevails. And, as a consequence, all the horrors of this too well-known system of exploitation are rampant here in a slightly-modified form as in the countries of intenser development. And, when our manufactures increase in strength and power, as they are doing, this island continent will be as blighted, from the human standpoint, as Christian England or America.

It is of peculiar note that when Australian manufactures were scarcely known, Australia was no workman's paradise; but when, owing to a tariff, our manufactures are springing ahead by leaps and bounds, the manufacturers, finding a need for more labor to exploit, and the necessity for a large number of proletarians on the market to minimise the higher wages paid to labor that is scarce, they inspire their press, politicians, and parsons to "barrack" for immigration to "develop our vast resources," etc. Hence the cry of that faithful servant of the legalised robber-class concerning Australia, "the workman's paradise," and the better opportunities of developing here instead of starving in England.

History is not always a reliable thing, but it is fairly unblushing regarding the attitude that all churches have taken up in various periods towards the workers. The Christian church has upheld chattel-slavery and feudal-slavery, and now upholds and blesses wage-slavery, at the dictates of its selfish economic masters, who only allow the preachers to live be-because they are their willing tools.

From Herve's Prison Cell.

A Message for Australia.

THE General Secretary of the Socialist Federation of Australasia, H. E. Holland, on Monday last, received the following letter from Gustave Herve, the famous French Socialist and Anti-Militarist, now undergoing a sentence of four year's imprisonment for his anti-militarist propaganda:

Prison de la Soute,
Paris, Dec. 15, 1910.

Dear Comrade,—It is only to-day that I can answer the letter received from you last September. You see, in the French Republic we can't always do as we should like to.

Tell my Socialist comrades in Australia their welcome letter has been like a ray of sunshine flooding my prison cell, and that their brotherly salute was all the dearer to me for having come so far.

The assurances of sympathy from Socialist comrades in the Antipodes that have been called forth by the little trouble that has come to me (for the third time within the last five years) make me feel that our International is not merely an empty expression, but a splendid reality, and that the day is not far distant when our ideals shall be realised, and at London, Paris, Berlin, and Petersburg, as well as at New York, Sydney, Pekin, and Tokio, we shall behold one flag floating above an emancipated people—the red flag of Human Freedom, of the world's Socialist Republic.

I give you and all the comrades in Australia a fraternal hand-clasp: from behind the iron bars of the prison I send you fraternal greetings.

Long live the Australian section of our International!

GUSTAVE HERVE.

Please transmit my fraternal greeting and thanks to comrade Moroney, of the Socialist Labor Party, and tell him how much I appreciate his message of sympathy.

James McFarlane, pump attendant at the C.S.R. Co.'s works at Pyrmont, was drawn into the machinery, and had his right leg broken in two places. The flesh was torn from the ankle to the knee.

National Library of Australia http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-page12366254

"The Sickening Fumes of Death."

Mt. Morgan again Described.

BY H. L. DENFORD.

SITUATED on the brow of a hill, with a sluggish river running at its base, are the workings and plant of the Mt. Morgan Gold Mining Co.

You are a visitor to Mt. Morgan; you desire to see the copper works. You approach. The first object of interest is the two great chimney stacks, one of which is 250ft. high. From this stack you see a stream of smoke constantly belching forth from the copper reduction works. This smoke looks harmless; but if the wind changed and blew in the direction where you are standing, you would suddenly get a shock and become conscious that it contained something your stomach could not digest. You would know that the smoke was mostly copper and sulphur fumes.

After receiving this taste of the fumes, your inclination to go through the copper works would begin to wane. But, being curious to know the conditions obtaining in those works, you would master the feeling of revulsion and approach the bottom floor.

What would you see? You would, of course, look for the wage-slaves. These you would see, and you would receive another shock far worse than the first one. Instantly to your thoughts would spring passages of Edwin Markham's epoch-marking poem, "The Man with the Hoe," "Bowed by the weight of centuries he leans," "The emptiness of ages in his face," and "Stolid and stunned, a brother to the ox." This would you see reflected in those wage-slaves. You would know that these men were not always like this; you would think of a time when they were robust and physically well when they had color that spoke of good health. But now, as you see them, they are gaunt and grim, with a whiteness of color that belongs to the tomb.

Seeing this, you would want to know the cause of the physical deterioration of these wage-slaves.

Your second surprise being over, you would notice the works.

You would see four large furnaces, three with streams of molten slag running out into large pots, each with a wage-slave in attendance. You would notice that these pots are drawn out on a line by a horse. You would follow these pots out to where they are tipped on the dump. Here you would see that one man has to tip these pots; you would notice that he has a large belt around his waist with a line attached to save him from falling some 50 feet over the dump. From this wage-slave you would learn that one man has been killed and another injured through not having the line and belt; he would also tell you of the men who have been blown to pieces while charging holes for the purpose of breaking off the overhanging parts of the dump. Turning back to the furnaces, you would notice that the streams of slag have stopped running, but their places have been taken by streams of copper matte, which have just been tapped. These streams flow into large ladels, five feet deep and five feet wide, which are let into the ground, and from these you would see the fumes rising, making you cough and sneeze. After flowing for a while, the stream would be stopped by some wage-slave plugging the vent with a piece of clay fixed to a long iron. You would notice how the burning sparks fall all over him if he partly misses the vent. This stream being stopped, the other takes its place again.

Then, above your head, you would hear a whirring and rumbling noise; looking up, you would see that this comes from an electric travelling crane that runs up and down the whole length of the floor. This lowers large tackling with two hooks on, one of enormous size. You would see these hooks take hold of the ladels and slowly draw them from out of the ground. You would see the crane start to travel away from the furnaces with the ladels hanging six feet from the ground. Following, you would see the label stop before a large mould, which is anything from 30 feet to 50 feet long, 5 feet wide, and six inches deep; into this the contents of the ladel is tipped by the electric crane. While the ladel was being tipped, you would perhaps think of the evolution of this piece of machinery. From the whip to the hand crane, from this to the steam crane, and on to the present marvellous piece of mechanism that is worked by children—boys 17 years old.

Being a Socialist, you would think of the tragedy of it all, that right through it had been the work of the class who labor, and that all they received was a mere existence, and a further bond of slavery, while the idle owning-class had received all the benefits derived from the ingenuity of the human mind. Your thoughts would turn from this to the day when the class that now operates everything will also own.

While your thoughts were roaming you would have forgotten the ladel of molten copper matte, but you would be suddenly made aware of its existence. The thunder of a loud explosion would cause you to forget all about Socialism and Evolution, and you would let out a warwhoop like that of a red Indian, and flee for your life, thinking that self-preservation is the first law of nature.

You would stop running when you thought you were out of harm's way, and look inquiringly around to see what had happened. You would ask yourself if anyone was killed or maimed. You would discover that the copper matte had only exploded in the mould—quite a common occurrence, you would be told.

This experience would teach you not to get too close to molten matte, and you would become more cautious.

The empty ladel would be taken back to its resting place to be filled again. The heat from the moulds would draw your attention, and once again you would find your mind wandering. This time you would be thinking of the Christians' burning hell, to which all Materialists like yourself are consigned by their brotherly teaching. You would come to the conclusion that the hell of the gentle Christian, with all of its immeasurable and unfathomable terrors, would be no punishment for the wage-slaves of Mt. Morgan.

You would turn your attention once again to the mould. You would watch the wage-slaves proceed to work on the mould of copper matte. First you would see one of them turn on a hose of water to cool it off. As soon as the water strikes, dense clouds of steam rise, like the smoke did from the tabernacle in the wilderness, and envelope all and sundry. You would gasp for fresh air; you would feel that you were being scalded, and you would beat another retreat; but you would notice the fool workers continue at their work.

You would know by this time that the cause of the gauntness, grimness, and whiteness of these men is the copper and sulphur fumes and the scalding steam.

You would think, judging by the surface, that the matte is cooled off, but you would be wrong, as you would find out as you watched it being broken up with bars and sledge hammers. You would notice that in places it breaks easily, while in other places it requires all the energy of the wage-slave on the hammer, the reason being that these parts are red hot in the middle.

The matte broken up into pieces, you would see a wage-slave between the shafts of an empty iron barrow (or cart) pulling, and another behind pushing. They would back this empty barrow into the mould, and proceed to fill it with matte by the aid of shovels. They would nearly fill the barrows, and then proceed to drag them away. You would watch these men pulling like horses, and from your lips would come the words: "Britons never shall be slaves." You would feel as if you would like to have hold of the man that composed that hell chorus that mocks men "toiling in their living graves."

You would leave these men at their work, feeling glad that you are not in the employ of this Mining Co. as a horse, and you would proceed further down the floor till you came to the convertors. Seeing them tipping one of these into small moulds, you would again be reminded of hell. You would notice the burning sparks falling in all directions, and the fumes rising in the air as the convertors turned back into position.

You would now have had enough of this floor, and would ask your way to the top-floor.

You would be shown up a flight of stairs. While mounting these, your courage would be at low ebb; some wage-slave would have told you that you have been in a paradise to that which you are approaching. Reaching the floor, you would at once know that he had spoken the truth. You would be overcome by fumes and heat, and you would start to retreat. But you'd want to see it through, so you would decide to move on. Looking around, you would see the great furnaces burning fiercely; you would watch the three feeders standing on the edge of the furnace shovelling the charge in through a space 12ft. long and 15 inches high, and you would notice that they were wringing wet with sweat. This is the front of the furnace. The feeders having finished the charge, would proceed to the back, where they would go through the same performance. You would notice that the fumes and heat are worse here; you would see the feeders kneel down to breathe air from pipes running alongside of the wall, just like a captive animal would breathe air through a crack in a closed cage on a summer's day.

By this time all the energy would be taken out of you; your heart would feel as if it was going to stop; the tears would be running from your eyes, and in your mouth the taste of a dozen sulphur matches.

You would turn your attention to the charge wheelers, pulling barrows of ore weighing from 800 to 1000 lbs; you would notice that there is only one man to a barrow, and your thoughts on the bottom floor would come back to you again. You would think of the millions of wealth that have gone in dividends to the shareholders of this Co., while these men toil like jaded horses to feed this burning, inanimate thing. You would realise "that the lives of these workers count for less than the charge they bring." You would notice that the men on this floor have a dry hacking cough that speaks of consumption, pneumonia, chronic bronchitis, or some other ailment. You would notice a man leaning against the wall vomiting, and you would find out that he has just been taking his food, and that these vomiting attacks are of common occurrence. You would think of these words of Francis Adam:

The sights and sounds there that every hour befell
Would wring the heart of the devils spinning copes of steel in hell.

You would leave this floor with a feeling that you never wanted to see it again. You would make your way back to your hotel, sick at heart, with thoughts not complimentary to our boasted civilisation. If you should drink, you would call for beer to wash the sulphur down (you would want to drink a dozen), and you would wait impatiently for the train that would whirl you away from the scene of those "winnowed and livid smoke clouds and the sickening fumes of death."

Death of Alf. Anseline.

ON Monday evening of last week, at Little Bay Hospital, Alf. Anseline passed through death's portals. For some months he had been suffering—a victim to cancer. Once he entered the Sydney Hospital to undergo an operation; but this was never performed. It was found that the ravages of the dread disease had extended to a stage that rendered an operation impossible. He returned from the Hospital, and those of us who had enjoyed the privilege of his comradeship were dismayed to behold the rapid decline of his strength, and the shocking wasting away of the once sturdy frame. When death finally brought sleep and rest to him, and sorrow to us, it was not unexpected.

On Wednesday, a number of Socialists followed the remains to the grave at Rookwood, where the impressive secular service was read by H. E. Holland, who also spoke briefly concerning the life and work of our comrade. Beautiful wreaths—among them one from the International Socialist Club—were laid on the grave, which is quite close to that of the late comrade C. Anderson.

Alf. Anseline was born at Grenfell 40 years ago. He worked as a builders' laborer, and later as a wharflabor er. For many years he was connected with the Socialist movement, identifying himself with the International Socialist Party as soon as it was formed because there he found the revolutionary spirit that harmonised with his views. Than him there was no harder worker in our movement. He was one of those who never came into the limelight, but was content to spend and be spent for the cause he loved. During our election campaigns he was never found wanting—either at the meetings or in literature distributing or billposting. Until his illness finally incapacitated him, he was comrade Raps' partner in billposting every Thursday night. We shall miss him—miss his cheerful disposition, his likeable presence, his energetic readiness to work for the movement. But, missing him, we shall remember him for his own and for his work's sake; for of him it may be written: "His life work made for Human Freedom."

Auckland Branch of N.Z. Socialist Party cabled this week, doubling its order for weekly supplies of THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALIST. That's the way to do Socialist propaganda.

AJAX: The sedate *Herald* recently informed its readers that two twin sisters visited a London hospital, where one of them was delivered of a son, and her physically-inseparable sister was greatly surprised thereat.

The incident recalls Hughes's "surprise" when Wade arrested the Newcastle strike leaders.

S.F.A. News & Notes.

Sydney Jottings.

SUNDAY'S Domain meeting was a splendid success. Its main feature was a fine speech by Wilson on Monarchy. Whitmore presided, and the other speakers were Rutherford, Riley, and Holland.

Successful street meetings were held on Sunday evening, again without police interference. The speakers were Wilson, Rutherford, Hirst, and Riley.

Members are reminded that comrade Raps will sail this Saturday by the North German steamer, which leaves Circular Quay at 1 o'clock. Socialists are urged to roll up in force at the wharf.

Members and friends are cordially invited to attend at the Club rooms this Saturday, at 3 o'clock, to meet Mrs. Dora B. Montefiore. The Leidertafel will sing, and in addition an enjoyable program will be provided. The main feature, of course, will be Mrs. Montefiore's speech.

Broken Hill.

THERE was a good attendance at the meeting of the Branch on Sunday last. Comrades from Melbourne, Wetherell Brothers, were enthusiastically welcomed; also Walter Stokes, union prisoner recently released from jail, was given a hearty reception.

Stokes replied to the welcome, thanking the Socialists of Broken Hill for their untiring efforts on his behalf, not only during his stay in jail, but since his release. He said he was surprised at the treachery of the Labor Party of N.S.W. When May was released, the Labor politicians lauded him to the skies. That was before the elections; but on his (Stokes's) release from custody, he immediately went to Sydney, and interviewed a few of the Trades Hall officials, and they absolutely refused to assist him. The only assistance he got was at Cobar coming through to the Hill. There the unionists treated him splendidly. In regard to the non-unionist charge, he said that it was deliberately engineered by the politicians. They knew right enough that he was a member of the A.W.U.

Undoubtedly Stokes is correct when he charges the Labor politicians with deliberately engineering the non-unionist racket. A prominent P.L.L. man, who moved at the meeting of the A.M.A. a few months ago that the matter with regard to Stokes be allowed to drop, is a member of the same union as Stokes, and no doubt when the charge was made that Stokes was a non-unionist, he knew that Stokes was in the A.W.U.

The following resolution was carried at the branch meeting on Sunday, and ordered to be forwarded to Socialist press for publication:

"That this meeting of Barrier Socialists heartily welcomes Walter Stokes back to that liberty of which he was deprived of by one of the most disgraceful acts of class-tyranny and judicial savagery that has yet reflected the dishonor of the ruling class and Labor Party of this State, and we further condemn the hypocritical behaviour of the Labor Party of New South Wales in using the name of Stokes to gain the reins of Government, and, after securing Governmental power, emphatically refusing to release Stokes."—21.1.11.

Labor-leader Scaddon has been assuring the Scottish Commission and the bourgeoisie generally that the Labor Party of W.A. is unwavering in its loyalty to the throne, and "they trusted that Australia would always be loyal to the flag," etc. After which, he wriggled back among the other worms, and Sir Charles Carlaw orated.

Sydney unionists may learn some valuable lessons from the way Railway Commissioner Tom Johnson's unorganised gantry boys downed tools, held up the wheat traffic, and brought the said Tom Johnson to his knees twice in the space of 24 hours.

A Sydney milkman, recently fined for watering the milk, carried two cans on his cart—one for milk and one for water. If the milkmen keep going, they'll soon be regarded as on a level with the politicians, who water the political milk for the adult infants with impunity. Some day, though, they'll get found out, like the milk-sellers.

There was a swift strike at Clifton the other day. Two lads were unjustly dismissed, and the wheelers threw the pit idle by way of enforcing a demand for their reinstatement. The manager complied with the demand, and work was resumed after a half-day's idleness.

A careful study of the anties of Homburg, M.P., of S.A., convinces one that the gentleman's real name is Humbug.

W. Ford tells the Sydney *Sun*, in a letter on Anarchism and Anarchists":

"Anarchism is a mental state requiring enlightened reason and educated conscience—this standard is sometimes attained by the journalist, but by politician and parson, never."

National Library of Australia http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-page12366259

Words from Wellington.

Concerning the Antics of Two Labor Politicians at a Maoriland Meeting.

BY G. CHRISTIE.

IF Foister Phraser Beeby had taken the trouble, while in Wellington, to explore the unsavory environs around Haining-street, he might have told the newspaper reporters a different story on his return to Sydney.

As he declared himself delighted with the hospitality he received from our bosses, it is not surprising that his impressions have been gained by THEIR prosperity and contentment.

Such trifles as sweating, unemployment, etc., are insignificant alongside the fact that Joe Ward's dinners equal or surpass Lord Chelmsford's. Still, in case Australian workers may imagine they are but a thousand miles removed from an "earthly paradise," it would be well to mention that a Mr. Wilson, of the Christchurch Hospital Board, has told us:

"In this country, scarcely sixty years old, removed from the waste and drift of large cities, we are spending a million a year on charities, and are supporting in institutes the third generation of degenerates."

We had an opportunity of hearing Mr. Beeby and his colleague, Mr. Holman, in the Wellington Town Hall. The local comrades turned up almost to a man to hear the "horny-handed representatives of Labor from Australia" denounce the robbery of the workers. We were disappointed.

Confiscation Carey was in the chair. It may be mentioned that Carey, a few months ago, publicly stated that Socialism is confiscation.

To those who know Carey well the new name is more appropriate than his saintly baptismal appellation, Elijah.

Mr. Beeby spoke first.

For half an hour he praised the country and lauded the climate; then he thanked those in high places for their courtesy and generosity, and naturally ended by defending the Arbitration Court.

Mr. Holman followed.

Nature has gifted him with a good voice, but his wheedling manner could only have been developed in the Courts of Law.

To be witty he does not think it necessary to be consistent. Eloquence and facts do not seem to combine in Mr. Holman's speeches. His is the sort of oratory that appeals to the unthinking, as was evidenced by the frequent marks of approval from the craft unionists in the audience.

In opening his address, he referred to his high office, its duties and responsibilities. Then he made an attack on the Revolutionary Socialists. "We have got them on the other other side," he said, "an irritable, impatient section who are hindering us in our work."

"They swear by Karl Marx."

Who was Karl Marx?

A German Jew, who knew little about politics, and nothing about Australia. What could HE learn from "Das Kapital," "an exploded book written over forty years ago?"

What the Deakin-Cook Alliance had done for them he ignored when boasting of their popularity and gloating over the seats the Labor Party had won—"the result of our strenuous propaganda work" (!)

He made much of the fact that all sections of the community are drawn to the Labor Party—a state of things that should surely make the workers inquire more closely into its pretensions!

That Capitalists who opposed Labor candidates at the last contest are now mentioned as supporters of the Labor Party, and may figure as its nominees at the next election, does not appeal to Socialists as a sign that the said Labor Party is coming our way. Rather, this sudden conversion proves they have either nothing to fear from the Labor Party's policy, or they intend, by gaining control, to render it non-effective.

We can easily understand Mr. Holman's advice: "Do not expect too much from us."

He concluded by an eloquent appeal to all Socialists to join the Workers' (?) Party, and stand together for the attainment of the great ideal.

This prompted comrade Farland to ask: "Does Mr. Holman favor the Labor Party propagating Socialism?"

His answer was: "What is Socialism?"

In reference to his defence of Arbitration, comrade Dowdall inquired of Mr. Beeby: 'Can there be any arbitration between the robber and the robbed?"

"That is a meaningless phrase," replied the "champion of the peoples' rights."

"Does Mr. Holman believe Socialism is confiscation?" was a question disallowed by the chairman, and the meeting closed with cheers for the Labor Party, and counter cheers for the Social Revolution.

Mr. Holman hit the target at least once in his address. He complained that "the Revolutionary Socialist is so terribly in earnest." He is quite right. We are.—17.1.11.

The General Strike.

To Prevent and Hinder War.

THE General Secretary of the Socialist Federation of Australasia has received the following:

International Socialist Bureau,
People's Palace, Brussels, Dec. 15, 1910.

Circular to affiliated Parties.

DEAR COMRADES,—The International Socialist Congress of Copenhagen carried a resolution on arbitration and disarmament, and moreover adopted the following proposition:

"The Congress decides that the Keir Hardie-Vaillant amendment shall be referred to the I.S.B. for examination, and that the latter shall report to a subsequent International Socialist Congress on the proposition contained in the amendment."

This Keir Hardie-Vaillant amendment reads as follows:

"Among the means to be used in order to prevent and hinder war, the Congress considers as particularly efficacious the general strike, especially in the industries that supply war with its implements (arms and ammunition, transport, etc.), as well as its propaganda and popular action in their most effective forms.

In their speeches the authors of this amendment pointed out that if the International had indicated the guiding lines of anti-militarist action at Stuttgart, it was necessary to find the means of realising these ideals at Copenhagen. While, in the legislative chambers, the parliamentary representatives of the workingmen are not limited in any attempt to frustrate the dangers of war, it is the duty of the labor organisations to intervene to prevent massacre; and, as a practical measure, the authors of the amendment had in view principally strikes of workingmen employed specially in delivering material of war.

The author of the proposition of reference, comrade Vandervelde, pointed out that the Keir Hardie-Vaillant amendment had such a wide bearing that it was necessary to have same examined and studied first by the affiliated parties. A resolution on paper has only a very relative value, and in such a vital matter it is of importance to see what it would be possible to realise.

It is with this object in view, dear comrades, that we place before you the Keir Hardie-Vaillant amendment. We beg of you to examine it carefully, to put yourselves in communication with the labor organisations concerned, and to report to us as quickly as possible.

We have to present to the Congress of Vienna complete details on this subject, and we are all desirous of arriving at a result which shall be favorable to the anti-militarist ideas on which our Socialist organisations are based.

ANSEELE
FURNEMONT
VANDERVELDE } Executive Committee.

CAMILLE HUYSMANS, Sec.

W. Ford's letter in Sydney *Sun*, in defence of J. W. Fleming, was a worthy effort However much we may disagree with Mr. Fleming's Anarchy, we are forced to respect his consistency, and to admire him for his self-sacrifice and his unswerving loyalty to the working class in times of industrial warfare.

A VERSE.

[FOR THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALIST.]

BY RODERIC QUINN.

WHEN you're beaten—all things lost,
Be yourself.
Dainty China broken is;
Not hard delf.

If in war you bare your sword
As a man may do and can,
War not for a little word—
War for Fellowship and Man.

Jugglers at Broken Hill.

BY A REVOLUTIONARY.

A SPECIAL meeting of the A.M.A. was held last Tuesday night to consider the question of voting assistance to Walter Stokes The meeting was largely attended by political wire-pullers, who moved that the matter be sent on to the B.L.F., which is largely composed of P.L.L. fossils, middle-class business men, etc. The matter might just as well have been sent to the House of Lords or the Sydney Labor Council.

Laborites here are out on the hustings. Twelve of them, seeking election to the Municipal Council, opened their campaign in the Demo. Club last Sunday night. There was a very poor attendance, and all the speakers told a long story of what they had done the previous term and what they intended doing if elected. They pointed to the abattoirs, exulted re the electric light, but said never a word about the victimization of unionists. One candidate neglected to mention municipal affairs. He said that, having Labor Governments in power in three States, it would be a shame and a disgrace to the people of Broken Hill if they neglected to return a majority of Laborites to the Council. He quite forgot to say that in each State the Labor Party has consistently legislated in the interest of the master class. Hughes and conscription; Holman's criminal treachery re Stokes; John Verran and his striker-bludgeoning police—these are incidents of Labor Party rule that might have been mentioned.—21.1.11.

Answers to Correspondents.

T.B., AUCKLAND; A.B., Adelaide.—Supplies increased as ordered.

H.J.McF., Nambour, Q.—Sub. was duly received and paper forwarded. Will make inquiries and notify you.

W. LAYLEY, Sandford, Vic.—Subs. received. Many thanks.

A.M.S., Girard, Kan., U.S.A.—Writing.

E.V.C., M., Broken Hill.—Will place suggestions before Administrative Council.

G.M., Adelaide.—Wire received. Sydney resolution of protest already forwarded to Japanese Consul.

LIBERTAS, Mt. Morgan.—Received too late for this issue. Next week.

Propaganda Fixtures.

Sunday.

DOMAIN, 3.—Hirst (chair), Mrs. Harris, Wilson, Riley, Denford, Holland.

GOULBURN-STREET, 7.15.—James (chair), Wilson, Denford.

MARTIN PLACE, 7.15.—Slade (chair), Hirst, Riley.

Friday.

DARLINGHURST, 8.—Slade (chair), Hirst, Riley, Denford, Blumenthal.

T. McKelvie, one of a gang sent to attend to a leakage in the big flue of the copper works stack at Mt. Morgan, was precipitated into the flue through the parapet collapsing. A wire rope was thrown, but McKelvie failed to reach it. His brother at last succeeded in getting his arm through the aperture, and McKelvie, getting a grip, was drawn out with difficulty. He was taken to the hospital, and died soon after admission. He was 32 years of age, and leaves a wife and two children.

International Socialist Club.

A special meeting of the above will be held on Thursday next, Feb. 2, at 8 p.m. Business: To receive report of special Sub-Committee, and alteration of Rules.

F. W. HARRIS, Sec.

I.S.C. Anniversary.

THE 12th anniversary of the International Socialist Club was celebrated at the rooms on Saturday afternoon last. Comrade Raps presided, and the proceedings opened with the singing of the "Social Revolution," after which comrades Burden, Crumlin, and Theo. Hansen contributed vocal items, followed by the congregational song, "Onward, Sons of Freedom."

H. E. Holland proposed the toast of the International Socialist Club, laying particular stress on the production of THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALIST.

The "Red Flag" was sung.

J. R. Wilson, in supporting the toast, compared THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALIST with the various papers of the English-speaking Socialists, and declared that our own paper stood second to none of them.

The toast was honored with cheers.

Songs were rendered by comrades Cliff Oliffe and Neumann, followed by "The Loafer down Below," by the gathering.

Comrade Allen, in an excellent speech, proposed the "World's Socialist Movement coupled with the S.F.A."

The toast was enthusiasially honored, the members rising and cheering lustily for the Social Revolution.

"The Battle Cry" was sung, and comrade Crumlin recited "Christmas Day in the Workhouse," followed by "The Man with the Hoe," by comrade Hirst, and a song by comrade Royal.

Comrade Denford moved, and comrade Hirst seconded: "That this anniversary meeting of the International Socialist Club places on record its appreciation of the great work of Dr. Kotoku and his wife and comrades for the world's revolutionary working-class movement, protests against the murderous brutality of the attitude of the Japanese Government towards them, and also records its deepest sympathy with the Japanese movement in the loss of these comrades."

The motion was carried by the meeting standing.

The singing of "Goodbye" followed, and the Marseillaise and ringing cheers for Revolutionary Socialism brought to a termination a most enthusiastic and successful gathering.

Helensburgh Victims.

ONE of the most scandalous incidents that has yet blackened our capitalist history is the treatment accorded the victims of the recent cage accident at Helensburgh.

It will be remembered that, some time back, 16 men were more or less seriously injured in an accident to the cage at Helensburgh Colliery, owned by the Metropolitan Coal Co. For the accident the Co. was absolutely responsible, and it would appear that the injured men had an excellent claim for damages. We now learn that a "settlement" was made, largely at the instance of a firm of solicitors and Messrs. Morgan and Dunleavy, under the terms of which the Co. agreed to pay the injured men a lump sum of £250. This was divided equally among the victims, and amounted to £30 18s each—or exactly 5s 10d per day for each man and boy for 17 weeks and 4 days. These men, remember, were capable of earning from 10s to 15s a day on present prices when working.

Now, three of the victims are disabled for life, and will never again be able to earn a living as coal miners. They are: Messrs. Joseph Madeo, Abel Gulberti, and John Dryden. How they are going to subsist for the remainder of their days on £30 18s is a conundrum.

It is helplessly stated in a circular issued that this "is one of those unfortunate positions in which, under the circumstances, we are practically without remedy."

What a biting reflection on our craft union system! What a tragedy, rising dolefully from the blood trail of Capitalism, when the wealth-making working-men, in the mad rush of profit-making for the masters, are broken and mangled for life, and then cast on the human scrap heap to beg, steal, or starve, as the case may be, because they are no longer capable of creating profits for the social thieves.

What a different tale would a conscious working-class, organised on revolutionary Socialist lines, have to tell.

The Press Fund.

	£	s	d
Already acknowledged -	62	15	10
Card Party - - - -	0	1	3
Per O. Jorgensen (Book 12)—L. Bushel 2s, M.D. 1s -	0	3	0
Per A. Gaum (Book 50)—H.M. -	0	2	0
Per H. E. Holland (Book 49) C. Lask 2s - - -	0	2	0
	£63	4	1
Advanced as Loans.			
Already acknowledged -	6	0	0
Total -	69	4	1

All communications to be addressed to O. W. Jorgensen, secretary, Press Fund Committee, 274 Pitt-street, Sydney.

National Library of Australia http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-page12366260

THE SHUNTER.

THE engine bars are splashed and starr'd
They've killed a shunter in the yard.

"She never seen how he was struck,
And he died sudden," some one said.
The driver coughed—"That flamin' track
Come on the slant and struck him dead."
The fireman choked and growled, "Hard luck!"
As he was carried to the shed.

The engine whistles short and low,
(His blood is on her catcher-bars).
We had to let his young wife know
His soul had passed beyond the stars,
Where he will hear no engines blow,
Nor listen for the coming cars.

She stared and stared—until he came,
On four men's shoulders, up the hill.
She sobbed and laughed and called his name,
And shivered when he lay so still—
She had no cruel words of blame—
She bore no one of us ill-will.

They've washed the rails and sprinkled sand
(Oh! hear the mail go roaring on!)
And he was just a railway hand—
A hidden star that never shone—
And no one seems to understand—
Her heart is broken! He is gone.

The engine bars are cold and hard—
They've killed a shunter in the yard.

—WILL LAWSON.

International Notes.

France.

THE cable reports that Briand was twice shot at from the gallery of the Chamber of Deputies. The shot missed the Premier, but wounded the Director of Public Relief.

M. Jaures blames France for assenting to the Anglo-Russian Convention, the object of which he declares is the partition of Persia.

The two imprisoned editors of *La Guerre Sociale*, Merle and Almereyda, who were arrested at the time of the railway strike, have not been tried as political prisoners, but as ordinary criminals. As they were not told what offence they were supposed to have committed, it was difficult for them to make an effective protest. Now, however, they have discovered that they are only accused of press offences they have at once entered a strong protest against their treatment, and threatened a hunger strike if they were not at once placed in the political department of the prison. This has had the desired effect. The two journalists were at once transferred to the department for political offenders.

United States.

Some recent investigations have shown that the New York Jockey Club alone set aside a sum of no less than half-a-million dollars for the purpose of bribing legislatures in connection with gaming laws.

During the recent election, votes were bought at so much a time, any number of dead men marked their ballot papers, ballot boxes were stuffed, some polling booths were not opened, while at others only "safe" voters were permitted to vote.

In the poor districts of New York the saloon-keepers openly kept up a purchase of votes. Many such votes undoubtedly brought about the defeat of Meyer London in the East Side.

Comrade Bushnell, writing to the *Appeal to Reason* from a town called Hot Springs, Arkansas, says: "There was little voting in the third ward on election day, for the reason that the polling booth was not opened till 4 p.m. Those who voted after that hour were probably 'desirable citizens' who were 'on.' All day long voters were turned away, and sent hither and thither on fool's errands. There was considerable complaint but it did not help matters. The elections in this town are seldom, if ever, carried in a legal way."

The names of the Socialist candidates were omitted from the official ballots of Taylor County, Texas.

From Dawson, Mo., comrade Roberts writes: "Several told me they voted the Socialist ticket, but only three votes were counted for us."

At Tampa, Florida, where for many weeks the 12,000 striking cigar makers have nobly carried on their struggle in the face of cruel oppression and brutality, workers have been lynched, thugs and gun-men have hounded workmen about, and the whole city is now at the mercy of the unscrupulous mercenaries of the capitalist class.

In Chicago men, women and children are daily being mercilessly clubbed by the police. The garment workers are on strike, but they are not permitted to have processions or demonstrations, and everything is being done by the authorities to intimidate them, and force them back to work.

Wherever a strike occurs, there the hirelings of the capitalist class are hurled against the workers. In some cases soldiers with machine guns—as in the recent Columbus, Ohio, strike—parade the streets to overawe the strikers. Some of the trusts have, besides, an army of Pinkertons as part of their regular staff.

The capitalists of the United States regard murder as one of their business methods.—TOM QUELCH, in *Justice*.

Germany.

The Reichstag discussed the projected Chambers of Labor, and adopted a series of paragraphs. The paragraph including the railwaymen, which was opposed by the Government, was passed by 132 votes to 115. Several speakers on the Right pronounced against it, pointing to the recent railway strike in France. The Social-Democrats moved that the Chambers should consist of representatives of the working class---Workers' Chambers, in contradistinction to official Labor Chambers. This motion was rejected, only the Social-Democrats voting for it.

There was a debate on the question of whether or not Labor Secretaries should be admissible to the Chambers. The Government wished to exclude them, ostensibly because, being no longer engaged in their respective trades, they can no longer be reckoned as workmen---in reality because they are Social-Democrats. When the vote was taken 199 voted in favor of their admission and 111 against. Another defeat for the Government. But grave doubts are expressed by *Vorwaerts* as to whether those members of the bourgeois parties who voted for it will do so on the third reading.

Reference was made to the French railway strike. It was argued that the French workmen had given a warning which no Government could with safety neglect. "We have no M. Briand here, with his energy, and must, therefore, safeguard our railways from any penetration of the Socialist doctrines," said one member.

The Imperial Chancellor, speaking in the Reichstag, attributed the moral responsibility for the Moabit excesses to the Social-Democrats, whose attitude towards these was, he said, quite in agreement with the tactical teachings of their leaders, which seek to call forth ever greater and greater bitterness. He did not, however, he said, intend to resort to a revival of the Anti-Socialist law. The State would be able to defend itself by means of the common law. He hoped the Reichstag would support the Government in this aim. He hoped, for instance, that on the question of the Imperial assurance they would support the efforts of the Federated Governments in the direction of preventing the misuse of their social-political institutions (sick insurance, etc.), as tools in the hands of the Social-Democrats. New laws were also needed against instigation to excesses and the glorification of past crimes. It would also be necessary to consider whether the penal code ought to be suplemented with a paragraph which should supply greater protection than hitherto to personal liberty and autonomy. These things have been fought for years. Already, in 1895, Bennigsen had declared in the Reichstag that the undermining work of Social-Democracy must be put an end to, and that in face of this task all the antagonisms of bourgeois parties receded into the background. He did not mean to say that Social-Democrats had become revolutionary in the meantime ---that they had always been---but the revolutionary expression is manifested with more brutal decision. The next Socialist election cry would, according to Noske, be the Republic. Had not Liebknecht just said, in America, that perhaps the German Crown will soon be blown away in a night, like that of Portugal?

Mauritius.

Reuter's reports "political disturbances" have occurred at Curepipe and St. Louis, Mauritius, and that "military patrols are maintaining order." Always the military as the bar to progress. Mauritius is under British rule. Originally it was called the Isle of France, and its population is mostly French. It was captured by the English in 1810, and is ruled on a modified Crown Colony basis. It has an Executive Council of five officials, appointed by the British Government, and two members elected by the "upper class" on a limited franchise; there is also a Legislative Council of 27 members, eight being ex-officio, nine appointed by the British Government, and ten elected by the upper class also on a franchise under which only those may vote who have immovable property of the annual value of 300 rupees, or movable property worth 3000 rupees, or paying 25 rupees rent monthly, or subject to license duty of 300 rupees annually and in receipt of 50 rupees salary monthly. This means that the working-class element in Mauritius is practically disfranchised, and the present movement is for a wider franchise. True to all its traditions, the British Government---which hangs and deports Indians who demand citizen rights in their own country; which flings Englishwomen into vile prisons when they ask for the right to vote; and which murders working men without compuction because they are working men---promptly meets the demand of the people of Mauritius with armed force, and hence we read that "military patrols are maintaining order." British Governments may yet learn "in some wild hour how much the wretched dare"---may yet discover that Mrs. Partington had a better chance of sweeping the ocean back with her broom than the ruling class has of blocking working-class progress with displays of military brutality.

A Column of Clippings.

IF the stroke of a comet should whirl the earth along an altered orb, with axis changed and continents where now are seas, the resulting change in the physical geography of the globe would scarcely be greater than that which now seems imminent in social affairs throughout the world. I use the words "seems imminent" advisedly; for no greater mistake could be made than to look upon the Socialist movement as a mere local or temporary craze, or on its leaders as hair-brained visionaries. On the contrary the movement is world-wide in extent, and its leaders are men of the profoundest intellect and insight. It has already assumed formidable proportions. Its ranks are rapidly swelling and its members are everywhere inspired with the zeal which comes of an absolute conviction that their cause is just, and that the arm of destiny upholds and bears their banners along. Nothing is gained by ignoring facts. All indications seem to justify the claim of the Socialist captains that they are "Sounding forth the trumpet that shall never call retreat."---L. W. KEPLINGER.

Have you been asking questions of or writing short articles about Socialsm to your local and other papers? If you will do that you will help the revolutionary movement.

The whole truth of life may be summed up in a few words. Happiness is the only good, suffering the only evil, and selfishness the only sin. And the whole duty of man may be expressed in one sentence, slightly altered from Voltaire---Learn what is true in order to do what is right. If a man can tell you anything about these matters, listen to him; if not, turn a deaf ear, and let him preach to the wind.---G. W. FOOTE.

Let us compare the earth to a garden, the wealth of the world to a large melon, the classes in modern society to four men. The worker is the man who tills the garden, the landlord is the man who owns the garden, the capitalist is the man who owns the spade with which the gardener works, and the financier is the man who lends the money to the capitalist. The worker ploughs the ground, plants the seed, tills the soil, tends the plant, and through his care and effort a beautiful large water melon has been wrested from the womb of mother nature. But that water melon he must divide with the others, so much so that he has only about a fourth for himself. But if he owns the land, owns the money, owns the spade, then all would belong to him.

John D. Rockfeller, the multi-millionaire and good Christian, has for years been buying up property round his private estate in "Sleepy Hollow." He has thus been able to destroy hundreds of dwellings. What becomes of the dwellers does not trouble him. His estate now extends five miles in every direction. If he lived long enough---this man of lovely nobility of soul, according to the Rev. Parasite Aked---he would probably live alone on this globe, except for his flunkeys---who might then settle his hash and start on their own account.---*Freethinker*.

The Tsar has sworn to respect and maintain the liberties of Finland. He is now destroying them. Let us give the pious autocrat of Russia his proper names. He is a crowned perjurer and assassin.

Profit is unpaid labor. Between 1895-1900 the Carnegie Steel Works realised £50,000,000 in profits. In 1905 alone they cleared £8,000,000. The annual profits of American railroads are approximately £60,000,000. In 1902 the Standard Oil Company paid 45 per cent. dividends on its invested capital.

According to statistical inquiries made in 125 of the German towns on the feeding of school children, it appears that last summer no fewer than 36,000, and last winter 22,000 children, came to school without having partaken of food of any kind. Far greater---10 per cent. higher---was the number of those who had no milk, while the others had been fed on very poor substitutes. In winter 180,000 children, and in summer 113,000 had not had a warm meal, but only had a snack of little nutritive value, while 22,000 were found to have no supper to eat.

The income of the average family in the United States is less than 600dols. a year. Thousands of daughters of the poor fall into the hands of the white slave traders because their poverty leaves them without protection. Thousands of families, as the Pittsburg survey has shown us, lead lives of brutalising overwork in return for the hardest living. Is it fair that these thousands of families should have less than they need in order that a few should have swollen fortunes at their expense? Let him who dares deny that there is wickedness in grinding the faces of the poor, or assert that these are not moral questions which strike the very home of our people. If these are not moral questions, there are no moral questions.

HOW TO GET

A Library for Nothing!

Read This!——and Get to Work!

For every TWENTY SHILLINGS in NEW Subscriptions (whether quarterly, half-yearly, or yearly) that YOU send in for THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALIST, the Executive will give you

Five Shillings' Worth of Books

to be selected from any available list of standard novels and poems, and also from the Socialist Literature list of the International Socialist Literature Department, published in this issue.

This offer will apply as from August 1. It is not made with reference to renewed subscriptions.

Books containing 20 receipt forms will be issued to members and other approved canvassers on application.

Names of new subscribers, together with amounts collected, must be handed in weekly while receipt books must be returned at the end of each quarter for audit purposes.

Write at once for a Receipt Book. The best way to do Socialist propaganda is to get subscribers for THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALIST, the uncompromising, fighting organ of Revolutionary Socialism; and, while doing this, you are presented with an opportunity to secure a collection of well-bound books FOR NOTHING.

Canvassers entitled to Books are asked to make alternative selections when forwarding claims. It is always possible that some of the books in the list may be temporarily out of stock.

Claims will be dealt with at the Executive Meeting each Monday night, and Books will be delivered or posted the following Wednesday.

READ, not to contradict and confute, nor to believe and take for granted, nor to find talk and discourse, but to weigh and consider.—FRANCIS BACON.

Socialist Literature.

Economic Argument for Industrial Unionism (Vine, St. John). Per doz., 9d	1d
Prepare for Action (Tom Mann)	1d
What Life Means To Me (Jack London)	1d
What is a Scab (A. M. Simons)	1d
Labor Movement in Russia (Sviatlowski)	1d
Jones's Boy	1d
Economic Foundations of Australian Politics	2d
Commercial Morality	2d
The Capitalist Class (Kautsky)	2d
The Proletariat (Kautsky)	2d
The Socialist Commonwealth (Kautsky)	2d
Economics of Labor (H. Quelch)	2d
Socialism and the Worker (F. A. Sorge)	2d
The Future of Woman (H. Burrows)	2d
Socialism and the Survival of the Fittest (J. Connell)	2d
Some Objections to Socialism Answered ("Tatler")	2d
The Class War (A. W. Humphrey)	2d

The Pamphlets in the following list contain 32 pages each, and are the best short propaganda books that can be obtained at the price. They will be sent post free at 18d per dozen assorted.

Women & the Social Problem (May Simons)	2d
Economic Evolution (Lafargue)	2d
Revolutionary Unionism (Eugene V. Debs)	2d
Wage Labor and Capital (Karl Marx)	2d
The Man Under the Machine (A. M. Simons)	2d
The Mission of the Working Class (C. Vail)	2d
Parable of the Water Tank (E. Bellamy)	2d
Why I Am a Socialist (G. D. Herron)	2d
Science and Socialism (R. Rives la Monte)	2d
You and Your Job (C. Sandburg)	2d
Class Unionism (Eugene V. Debs)	2d
The Philosophy of Socialism (A. M. Simons)	2d
An Appeal to the Young (Peter Kropotkin)	2d
Industrial Union Methods (W. E. Trautmann)	2d
From Revolution to Revolution (Herron)	2d
The Scab (Jack London)	2d
Revolution (Jack London)	2d
Marx on Cheapness (Trans. Rives la Monte)	2d
Industrial Unionism (Eugene V. Debs)	2d
Anti-Militarism and Anti-Patriotism	3d
The Materialist Conception of History (Dogmatist)	3d
Communist Manifesto (Marx and Engels)	4d
Socialism, Revolution, and Internationalism (G. Deville)	6d
Value, Price, and Profit (Karl Marx)	6d
The Socialists: Who They are and What They Stand For (John Spargo)	6d

All orders for above Pamphlets to the amount of One Shilling and upwards will be sent post free; for smaller amounts One Penny Postage per Pamphlet must be added.

Common Objections to Socialism Answered (R. B. Suthers), 1d	Posted 6d
Merrie England (Blatchford), 4d.	Posted 6d
Britain for the British (Blatchford), 4d	Posted 6d
God and My Neighbor (Blatchford) 4d	Posted 6d
Equality (E. Bellamy) 6d	Posted 8d
Looking Backwards (E. Bellamy) 6d	Posted 8d
Martyrdom of Ferrer (McCabe), 6d	Posted 8d
Not Guilty (Blatchford) 8d	Posted 10d
Sorcery Shop (Blatchford) 8d	Posted 10d

The Encyclopedia of Social Reform, by W. D. P. Bliss. Cloth binding 17s 6d, posted 19s 6d. Leather binding £1 2s 6d, pos 6d £1 4s 6d. Original prices, cloth £1 15s, leather £2 15s.

The International Socialist, 4s per year, 1d per copy
The Socialist (Victoria), 4s per year 1d per copy
The Commonweal (N.Z.) 1s 6d yearly, 1d each

Order from O. W. Jorgensen, Secretary, Literature Department, 274 Pitt-street, Sydney.
Also procurable at 61 Goulburn-street.

Mental Dynamite. 2d.

National Library of Australia http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-page12366261

OUR TOILING BROTHERS.

With bending backs
I watch them pass
To fields of toil,
The working class,
And I wonder why,
As they pass along,
The world can sing
So glad a song.

The weight they bear
Through all the years
Should call from us
A world of tears.
And I wonder why,
In God's great plan,
Few tears are shed
For toiling man.

—Mary Nuton James.

JUSTICE.

BY SYDNEY PARTRIGE.

Eat, drink, and be merry, for to-morrow we die.

Be merry, for to-morrow we die. To-morrow—we—die——

Die!

I am strong and full of life, but to-morrow I die. And I don't *want* to die. O God!—God!——

How silly to cry on God! Silly.

G—o—d—d!

I have shouted at the full strength of my lungs, and four stone walls returned a confused echo.

The only answer of God.

What did they teach me of God or Good in the base slums of my childhood? Nothing. There was no time. They were too busy teaching me that it was no shame for my father to pound my mother's face to a jelly, that gin was made to be drunk, that one meal a day was a luxury, that tongues were made to lie and use foul language, and hands to pick and steal, that filth and abuse were to be my daily portion.

That all these things were LIFE.

That the north was bounded by starvation, the south by jail, the east by infamy, and the west by pain. I was an apt pupil, and took my degree at an early age.

When I learnt that there was another side to the shield, that Life outside our boundaries held beings who might have come from another planet so remotely dissimilar were their ways from ours, who sang in their churches—

"It is He that hath made us, and not we ourselves,"

and who looked on us as lower and more vile than the refuse in our gutters—it was too late.

Nothing could take from me my birthright—my knowledge of the fruit of the Tree of Evil. Their foolish talk of a God fell on deaf ears. A God of Love they called it—and I laughed.

Good! What is good—what is bad? Names—names!

When I hit Turner I meant to hurt him—he deserved it. I don't know whether I meant to kill him or not. I don't think I thought about it. Anyhow, the fool went down on the kerb and lay there all doubled up, with his great stupid mouth full of blood, gaping up at the smoky sky. And the police nabbed me with blood on my stick. Turner's blood, though I denied it.

I've been in tight places before, but this is the tightest. God help——

Ha! ha! ha!

And to-morrow I die!

Eat—drink—(they say I may choose my own breakfast)—and be merry—be merry——

For to-morrow I die.

And I don't want to die.

Socialist Fables.

The Ministerial Picnic Party.

BY W.R.W.

The beautiful harbor of Barefaced Sham was an ideal boating place, and one day a working man took his wife and four children out for a row.

The water was very still, and the little party were enjoying themselves famously, when they were startled by a loud shouting on a vessel which was heading straight for them.

The vessel was a large government steamer, freighted with Ministers of the Crown and leading capitalists and land agents. The Ministers were having one of their periodical outings with their friends.

All the Ministers and Capitalists were yelling and shouting to the family in the little boat to get out of their way, as though the harbor, as well as the land, belonged to them.

The poor man tried his best to get out of the way of the Government steamer, but couldn't, and his little boat was smashed, and he and his party were thrown into the water.

The Ministers and the Capitalists stood looking over the side of the steamer at the man and his little family struggling for dear life, but they never offered to do anything to help them; but a working-man, who happened to be steering, signalled to the engineer to "stop her," and the Government boat hove to.

The workingmen, the helmsman, and the engineer, started to lower a boat and throw life-belts to those who were drowning, when the Ministers and Capitalists called to them and said, "Here, stop this! Remember that's our property you are using. You can't use that boat nor those life-belts either."

"Why, surely," said the workmen, "you aren't going to let people drown, are you?"

"They must do the same as everybody else," said the Capitalist Party. "They must either sink or swim."

"Sink be hanged," said the workmen, hotly, "They want assistance. There, get out of the way; if you won't help them, we will. And they tried to lower the boat, but the Ministers and the Capitalists got round the boat, and hung on to it like grim death.

"This is an interference with the liberty of the subject," they shouted. "This is against freedom of contract. It will destroy that man's independence and manhood to help him. It will reduce him to the dead level of barbarism, and teach him to depend upon charity and lean upon the Government for support. It will destroy religion, home, mar——"

"Here! What are you giving us?" said the workmen. "Get out of the way!" And they started to pull the boat away from the fat fellows, so that they could lower it.

The capitalists called upon the Premier and Ministry to help them, shouting out a lot about Revolution, Anarchy, and Socialism, and demanding that the Government should take action against the Revolutionary Socialists who were determined to save the people from drowning.

The Premier said he would have to administer the law and preserve order, so he called on the police, who always travel with Ministers, to arrest the workmen, and put them in leg-irons. He said, "They are very dangerous."

The police obeyed, and the engineer and the steersman were clapped into irons and safely locked in; and the boat went on its way down the harbor.

The Capitalists ordered another case of champagne to be opened, and a plentiful supply of cigars, and between smoking and drinking the party soon forgot all about the people struggling in the water for dear life.

The Sectarian Serpent.

BY AJAX.

Cardinal Moran's ultimatum to the State Labor Party was the signal for an outburst of vituperation and animosity on the part of the sectarian organs and clerical press, who, during the last few days, have dragged the old sectarian serpent from his lair. The ultimatum appears to have stung Political Labor Leagues to the quick, and provided matter for Christian papers to show the religious rancour and charitable aspirations they entertain for each other.

What is all this squabble about schools and bursaries?

The gist of the matter is the Catholic Church, with a keen eye to the future, is fighting for the maintenance of its waning power, both temporal and spiritual. Despite attempts to prove the contrary, one is fairly safe in presuming that there was some secret or implied understanding between Labor members and the Catholic Church, in which the Church was to gain something for political support rendered.

The Church has a fixed policy and an ancient maxim that applies equally to political parties or pilgrims: "Nothing for nothing." When the Church supports a political party, that party will have to pay the piper.

It seems that a sop in the shape of bursaries has been offered the Catholics, but His Eminence is too old a bird to be caught with that bait. Whether the Cardinal has helped the Labor Party or not, the bursary business does not reflect statesmanship on the part of the Government, while the Cardinal's utterances show clearly that the Church is a political institution.

The Church fully recognises that environment is the governing factor, although denouncing scientists who preach this theory. Therefore, the Catholic Church fights for an environment that will aid its purpose.

This question of Catholic schools has been exhaustively thrashed out on former occasions in the Cold Country, where it invariably led to a great deal of sectarian strife amongst the working-class, so much so that Orangemen and Catholics have been known to give up discussing the matter, preferring to leave the decision to the God of Battles and crack each others' skulls for Christ's sake!

Although many Catholics use their own discretion on political matters, there is more than bluff in the Cardinal's threat. The State Labor Party is weak in Parliament, and is not gaining ground in the constituencies. Therefore, it is possible His Eminence holds the keys of the political heaven.

The Wade Party has been rightly dubbed wowseristic, but that fact would not deter the Church from deserting its false friends, as it has frequently done in the past.

Labor members may profess surprise at the Church's attitude, but this sectarian child is the offspring of political lust, and its cries will have to be pacified, especially as in a diplomatic struggle the Catholic Church is probably more than a match for the Government.

These sectarian questions are at the bottom mere side issues, which are greatly exaggerated to side-track people from the economic field.

The main lessons to be learned are that the Church is a political institution, in conflict with which the Labor Party does not shine—because the Labor Party is opportunist and bourgeois, and has no conception of the economic causes that impel the Church to make its bid for political control.

All the facts point to the conclusion that the Ministry, spurred on by unbridled opportunism, has hugged the sectarian serpent to its breast, and if the Labor Party is not very careful it will be stung to political death.

Capitalism's Trail of Blood.

Among the depositions read at the Waratah inquiry was one from a steward, who stated that the boatswain had told him that the Waratah's lifeboats were the most awful he had ever seen.

Five persons were killed as the result of a fire at the Chamber of Commerce buildings in Cincinnati, Ohio, and a score more injured.

Edward Byers, boatswain on the steamer Runices, was severely injured about the head through a bag of wheat falling on him at Darling Island.

C. Thorgenson had his skull fractured by a sling of timber while unloading the barque Aimona at Johnstone's Bay, Sydney.

A verdict of accidental death was returned at the inquest held on Henry C. MacPherson, a lad who was run over and killed at Sutherland by lawyer Abigail's motor car.

Michael Ryan was shunting at Portland, when a 10-ton truck ran over one of his feet, which was crushed, and had to be amputated.

A. Doyle, laborer, while working on the steamer Aeneas at Sydney, was struck on the head by a sling of wire, receiving scalp wounds and injuries to the head.

John Barnes, employed on the Dunedin Harbor Board dredge, was severely scalded while doing repair work.

It now transpires that when the Waratah was built at Glasgow it was considered unsafe to coal her for more than the voyage to London. An Adelaide witness testified that sailors had warned him against travelling by the Waratah, as she had "nearly turned turtle" at the wharf in Sydney.

Edward Taylor, miner, was killed by a fall of earth in the South Blocks mine, Broken Hill.

H. Hansen, wharflaborer, was knocked down by a sling of piping and had his arm and ribs broken while helping to unload a vessel at Central Wharf, Sydney.

Geo. Green, machinist, was struck on the head and seriously injured, while working at the Acme joinery works, Pyrmont.

L. Anderson, boatswain of the steamer Duranbah, while helping to load logs on to the vessel at Chinderah, was precipitated into the water and drowned.

Eight men were killed and one injured by an explosion aboard the United States battleship Delaware, owing to a steam pipe bursting.

Alfred Warner, rockchopper, was killed in an explosion in a sewer at Fernhill. His body was fearfully mangled.

Benjamin Clark, wharf-laborer, was crushed between a huge log and the side of the steamer Kistubar, at Saxon and Byers' wharf, Sydney. He sustained a fracture of the pelvis and internal injuries.

John Malvern, fireman, was kicked and severely injured by a horse, while at work at Paddington fire station.

Fifteen men were badly injured in an explosion in the Big Hill colliery at Lexington, Mexico.

Two miners, R. Wilsdon and Vasiopolis, were the victims of an explosion at the Gladstone Mine, Cometvale, W.A. Vasiopolis lost his life, while Wilsdon was cut and bruised.

Receipt of Sample Copy of this Paper is an invitation to you to become a Subscriber.

The International Socialist

Official Organ of Revolutionary Socialism in N.S.W.

Under the control of Joint Executives, International Socialists.

H. E. HOLLAND, Editor.

Offices: 61 Goulburn-street, Sydney.

Headquarters: 274 Pitt Street, Sydney.

All Business Communications to be addressed to the Manager.

All Literary Communications to be addressed to the Editor.

SUBSCRIPTION:

Australia—4s. per year; 1s. per quarter.
New Zealand—5s. per year; 1s 6d per quarter.
Other Countries—8s per year; 2s per quarter.

The International Socialist will be sent FREE OF CHARGE to Schools of Arts, on condition that it is duly filed.

Obtainable from

The International Socialist Group, Sydney.
The Socialist Party of Victoria, Melbourne.
The Socialist Party of South Australia, Adelaide.
Barrier Socialist Group, Broken Hill.
The Socialist Party of New Zealand, Wellington, and Branches.
Mr. Battery, newsagent, near G.P.O., Adelaide.
A. Unsen, care of Socialist Propaganda League, Brisbane.

And all Newsagents.

EVERY DESCRIPTION OF

Printing

AT THE

Marxian Printing House

61 Goulburn St., Sydney.

S.F.A. Post Cards.

1. "What the Labor Party has got for the Politician with Compulsory Arbitration—Osborne Park, Gore Hill, the residence of Mr. W. M. Hughes, M.P."; and "What the Labor Party has got for the Workers with Compulsory Arbitration—Miners' Mansions at Plattsburg.
2. "Coal Country Contrasts." "The residence of Mr. Alex. Ross (Wallsend Coal Co.), Plattsburg"; and "Miners' Homes on Wallsend Co.'s Estate at Plattsburg."
3. "Where the Miners Live." "Pitt Town, Wallsend," and "Miners' Homes."
4. "The Red Flag Brigade"—jailed for protesting against the Coercion Act.
5. H. E. Holland—sentenced to two years' hard labor in Albury Jail for sedition for a speech in connection with the Broken Hill Lockout.
6. 1909 Conference Delegates.

One Penny Each. Assorted Packets, 6 for 4d
Postage Extra.
Wholesale from General Treasurer, S.F.A., 274 Pitt Street, Sydney.

S.F.A. Library, No. 1.

The Materialist Conception of History

By "Dogmatist."
The Finest Australian Socialist Publication.
PRICE, 3d. Posted, 4d.
Retail in Sydney from the I.S. Group and at all Socialist meetings.
Also from the Vic. Socialist Party; Socialist Party of South Australia; Barrier Socialist Group, Etc.

Wholesale from
The Socialist Federation of Australia, 274 Pitt Street, Sydney.
H. E. Holland, Gen. Sec.
Aug. Borax, Gen. Treas.

THE

International Socialist Club

274 PITT STREET, SYDNEY.

Reading Room, open from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m., on week-days only. Interstate and International Socialist and Labor Papers filed.

The finest Socialist and Labor Library in Australia.

Any person of the age of 21 years and upwards is eligible for membership, subject to election at an Executive meeting.

Subscription: 5s per Quarter in advance.

Comrades arriving from other countries, who can show financial contribution card of any Socialist organisation, may be elected as temporary members of the Club for a term of three months after their arrival, and shall be free from contributions during that time.

Liedertafel meets Weekly for Practice.

Printed and published for the Proprietors, the International Socialist Club, by Henry Edmund Holland, at 61 Goulburn-street, Sydney, New South Wales Australia.

National Library of Australia http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-page12366262

would see, and you would receive another | tention, and once again you would find your

THE RISK TAKEN.

The Prime Minister has never told Parliament or the people how many men the nation can afford for soldiering after we have arranged to keep the Navy at the highest efficiency, feed our people and maintain our oversea commerce, make our munitions, pay our debts, and supply our Allies. Mr. McKenna, we believe, strongly holds the view that the country is recruiting more soldiers than it can pay for, that the present rate of expenditure cannot be maintained, that our five or six millions a day are so many milestones on the road to ruin. Mr. Runciman holds a similar opinion. These two men are perhaps the ablest administrators in the Government. Has the Prime Minister considered their view? Does he accept or does he reject it? We do not know.

WHAT IS THE POLICY?

The Government are without a policy on this vital matter of the size of the Army. Are they, therefore, absolved from all inquiry as to the use they have made of the millions of free soldiers already offered them? These are not times in which a great nation can be asked to give everything—including its liberty to work or not to work, to fight or not to fight—and be told nothing. In Gallipoli it has freely given 100,000 young lives to be lost or half ruined. How many more soldiers will the application of compulsion yield to our battalions than that single tragedy of wastefulness has subtracted from them?

AUSTRALIAN FREEDOM LEAGUE.

(IN OPPOSITION TO CONSCRIPTION)

Telephone: Brighton 2325.

Commonwealth Organiser:
THOS. J. MILLER.

Central Office:
"Bide-a-Wee," Lees St. BENTLEIGH,
MELBOURNE.

Anderson, Gowan & Du Rieu Pty. Ltd., 552-554 Lonsdale St., Melb.

the other takes its place again. | of this Mining Co. as a home, and you

National Library of Australia http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-page12366255

No. 54.

The Surrender of Free Service.

(From "The Nation," London, January 1st, 1916.)

We confess to a deep concern at the prospect that this war, which was begun by a united nation, is now likely to be concluded by a divided one. But we are hardly less concerned that the Cabinet's surrender of the principle of voluntary service in war in the hour of its vindication should have been taken under circumstances which reflect so little credit on the wisdom and character of our rulers. If we were to have conscription it was clearly wise to avoid the greater dangers associated with it. The plan should have been as well considered as possible. It should have been adopted from conviction and not from newspaper pressure, and it should have been made clear to the world that the Derby scheme had had the fair trial that was promised it. In the absence of any urgent reason for refilling the ranks of the Army, and with a full flow of recruits secured for many weeks, Conscription should not, even in principle, have been hustled through the Cabinet. Yet all these blots appear in and disfigure this week's decision.

THE INFLUENCE OF THE PRESS.

The "Times" chose the day on which the Cabinet sat to bring its heaviest guns to bear on the Prime Minister to enforce the "fulfilment" of his "pledge," under a covert hint of personal dishonour. The plan to which, under that pressure, the Cabinet appears to have assented was neither Mr. Lloyd George's nor Mr. Asquith's, but the "Daily Mail's." It is not an all-round scheme of compulsion, but is confined to a single class. And compulsion itself is to be resorted to without a serious attempt to show whether it is wanted or is worth doing, whether the material result it promises could or could not be obtained by voluntary means, and whether the returns of the Derby appeal would or would not show this to be the fact. A Liberal Government is jettisoned in one afternoon; free service on another. What is to go next?

THE TRAP.

The crisis thus precipitated has been led up to with much art. A trap was set for the Prime Minister. He was induced to say that married men should not be called on until all but a negligible number of unmarried men had come forward. The Derby scheme was thus turned round from an instrument for securing recruits into a means of holding them back while the pressure for coercion was applied. When the returns came in and were roughly counted up they yielded two masses of results. The **first mass** of attested men was an enormous body approaching three millions. The conscriptionists declined to regard this as of any consequence. It had to be sifted and reduced to its final proportions in its yield of recruits. **The second mass** of unattested single men was quite differently regarded. It was treated as a *bloc* of unwilling but unencumbered "slackers" who were hindering the passage of the willing married with families to think of, and Mr. Asquith was at once called on to redeem his pledge, and force them into the Army. The fact was that Mr. Asquith's pledge had not come into being at all. It was obviously subject to two conditions. **The first** was that the **claims for exemption should first be investigated** by the

National Library of Australia http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-page12366256

on is not renewed within the time | ment, disappears, and with it goes | love a

Tribunals, so that the Government could see how many available recruits it had actually got out of the tremendous number of offers of service, and whether its needs were satisfied. **The second was that a similar analysis should be applied to the unattested** single men, so that the Government could also see whether more than a "negligible" number were improperly hanging back. It is a matter of dispute how this second analysis should be conducted. But until the two investigations had been made neither the Cabinet nor anybody else could say what were the meaning and true results of the Derby appeal.

COERCION.

We gather, by Mr. McKenna's and Mr. Runciman's proffered resignations, that the demand for time to inquire has been roughly pushed aside, and that the ramrod of force is at once to be thrust into all this delicate machinery of lives and purposes. We will not for the moment raise the immense political difficulties in which this unconsidered action involves us.

THE TWO ENGLANDS.

We hope, however, that the lovers of this country will not conclude that there is something sapless in its fibre merely because of the recklessness with which its statesmen are throwing its greatest institutions away. There is not. There is a right and a strong England still. But it is a weak and a feckless England which is being presented to the world in its press and in its political direction.

OUR THREE GREAT POSSESSIONS.

We entered on this war with three great blessings, peculiarly applicable to our effort to restore the threatened liberties of Europe. These three things were integral parts of a Constitution which every liberal nation admires and regards as a banner under which this struggle is to be carried forward to ultimate victory. **They were free military service, a free Parliament, and a free press.** This week the Government has surrendered the first of these franchises, after having gravely qualified the second and the third. A press to which a Government Censor denies the right of reporting a great meeting of workmen addressed by a Cabinet Minister, and which is virtually compelled to accept that Government's report (a misleading one) of such an assembly, can hardly be said to exist as an organ for the instruction of public opinion.

A FREE PARLIAMENT.

Not less humiliating is the position of Parliament. It was not in phantasy that we devised a system under which the House of Commons was divided into main groups, one supporting the existing Government, the other criticising it. It was for the creation of a strong Executive, subject to the final exercise of the Parliamentary power to which, in the last resort, all British Governments must bow. The present crisis does not diminish the importance of this power, but greatly increases it. Its maintenance is now shown to be inconsistent with the formation of a Coalition and the withdrawal of a regular Opposition. In the absence of such an Opposition the House of Commons, as anyone who knows its history and character might have imagined, has lost all authority. It is allowed to know little or nothing of the conduct of the war, even of its most disastrous episodes, and for lack of that knowledge cannot stretch its hands over any of the offenders or the causes of offence or set up those means of inquiry by which administrative efficiency is secured.

try girls, seduced and deserted; | upheld in the sacred name of religion | class-

National Library of Australia
http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-page12366257

ove and life and by a common life | sity for a large number of pro-

THE VOLUNTEER ARMY.

As to the Derby scheme not a single fact or figure has been presented to it, and the problem will now, we suppose, first come before it in the shape of a Conscription Bill. To crown this disrespectful treatment, at the first hint of opposition to a measure which changes the British Constitution, a Dissolution is held over its head, and a kind of plebiscitary despotism held up as the model of a British Government in time of war.

OUR LIBERTY GOING.

It is inevitable that in such an atmosphere as this the liberties of the people should one by one be disappearing. For what cause? Those who lightly and cruelly talk of "fetching" certain classes of them into the Army, or "bringing them in by force," forget how willingly these liberties were yielded up, not only when the first appeal was made to the patriotism of the nation, but through the months of discouragement that succeeded it. Under that appeal three million men enlisted for a foreign war conducted in theatres more and more distant from the motherland. A second appeal was made, and nearly three million more volunteers, fit or unfit, responded. It is true that a considerable residuum was left, particularly in the class which has, after all, furnished the great majority of the existing armies. But no one, certainly no member of the present Cabinet, knows of what that residuum consists—whether, when sifted out, it will amount up to 300,000 men or sink as low as 100,000. Its quality is equally obscure. No man can say how many must be eliminated on the ground of physical disability (the lowest estimate is 60 per cent.), how many are engaged in war work or indispensable civil work, such as transport, coal-mining, the manning of the mercantile marine, the mines, the necessary export industries, and how many are the sole support of their homes; how many are conscientious objectors; how many, in a word, are really available material. Least of all can he aver that when all these men have been eliminated from the non-attesting classes, the last sifting, which will now never be made, will reveal a body large enough to be worth enlisting by force or good enough to be taken into the Army after impressment. But that is by no means all. Thousands of men have never been canvassed, for a reason, familiar to the electioneering agent, that there has been no time to trace the removals, which in a few months or weeks completely alter the character of an industrial district. They cannot be classed as "slackers," for their mind has never been sounded. **In a word, the Derby canvass has never been given a chance.** It is left an incompleted operation, its true results unknown and uncalculated. For want of a little patience, a little imagination, a great principle of government goes by the board, and Conscription is rushed through in a single meeting of the Cabinet before any serious attempt is made to discover whether it is necessary or no. Why this silence?

THE PLEDGE.

What, then, has happened? The Prime Minister makes a kind of pledge with himself or with Lord Derby or with some (not all) of his Ministers. He makes it to Parliament in a form in which he insists on the unity of the nation and the desirability of assuring its consent to so great a change as that from voluntary to forced service. **The unity of the nation soon disappears from the scene.** The pledge is given a narrower and narrower shape, till the Prime Minister lets Lord Derby simply say that he requires the enlistment of all but a "negligible" minority of the unmarried men. But this "unneeded" number cannot be reckoned up until the dimensions of the "need" itself have been stated. This is precisely what has never been done.

lass-Dissed, | alised, and at London, Paris, Berlin, and

Nat http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-page12366258 Library of Australia